

SUBJECT: National Guard Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP)

1. Purpose. The DTTP is the technology component of the National Guard Bureau's distance learning initiative. DTTP provides community-based distributive learning classrooms increasing access to military training at the lowest possible cost. The project is also demonstrating the significant value-added concept of sharing installed technology with the communities in which the National Guard is based. The project complements the Total Army Distance Learning Program (TADLP) by providing additional classrooms and access in communities not currently addressed in the Army Distance Learning Plan.
2. Facts.
 - a. Mission requirements are to improve readiness by providing greater access to military training and education; facilitate Command, Control, and Communications within the National Guard; and to foster economic development, improve educational levels, and provide information access through shared use with the communities in which the Guard is based.
 - b. DTTP was initiated in 1995 as a Congressionally sponsored demonstration project to exhibit distance learning capabilities and the shared usage concept. The "Demonstration Project" later renamed DTTP is a state-of-the-art communications and learning-delivery system designed to support the Guard's traditional and expanding operations at home and abroad.
 - c. DTTP has been designed using open system architecture with commercial off-the-shelf technology, and application of best business practices.
 - d. TADLP and DTTP representatives developed a consolidated list of prioritized TADLP and DTTP classroom installations under a U.S. Army TRADOC initiative, with participation from the ARNG and USAR. This list coordinates and prioritizes installations between Army, Guard, and Reserve locations. As a result of this process the total number of DTTP classrooms identified for fielding is 519. One of the objectives of this collaborative effort is to provide a classroom within 50 miles of 95% of the soldiers in each state.
 - e. DTTP converts available space in armories, colleges, libraries and other locations into high tech classrooms. Classrooms are linked via state-of-the-art telecommunications to centralized training and teleconference facilities in all 50 states, 3 territories, and the District of Columbia, resulting in a fully interactive training infrastructure where both military and civilian studies can be conducted. To date, 328 classrooms have been installed in a wide variety of configurations. DTTP's multimedia classrooms are connected by GuardNet, the NG network that carries voice, video, and data for NGB initiatives. The Network Operations Center that supports the Guard's learning and delivery infrastructure is located in the Army National Guard Willow Oaks facility, Fairfax, Virginia.
 - f. The Guard Collaborative Learning Source (GCLS) is a software enhancement of DTTP that offers a resource for accessing program and content information.
 - g. Collaboration between organizations, e.g., federal, state, public, private, is ongoing. These partnerships are focused on fully implementing the program's potential for extending educational venues into communities across the country. Under this "shared use" approach, classroom facilities are made available to non-military organizations on a direct cost reimbursement basis. The synergistic effect of this approach is the expansion of access to automated information, training and communications capabilities across the nation, while at the same time helping to defray the cost of operating the system. The eventual impact on improved mobilization readiness and community access is expected to be substantial. Cooperative agreements were designed for the states to begin collecting program income generated from the shared use of the classrooms with other organizations.
 - h. DTTP is a partner with the Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Co-Laboratory in Alexandria, Virginia. The Co-lab provides a collaborative environment where content and tools can be shared and common guidelines and standards can be developed, tested and implemented. The collaboration is occurring between the federal

SUBJECT: National Guard Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP)

government, industry, academia, state and local entities. ADL partnerships between the federal government, private sector technology suppliers and the broader education and training community will be the means for formulating voluntary guidelines that will meet common needs.

i. The RCAS program and the acquisition mission of DTTP have been consolidated under one Project Office and contract vehicle (the Automated Information Technology Services (AITS) contract).

3. Capabilities and Acknowledgements.

a. One of DTTP's top priorities is to ensure that National Guard troops are prepared for their missions. To do so, it provides access to training courseware and content, covering such topics as anti-terrorism; nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare; emergency first response; combat skills; medical training; and military training.

b. DTTP is playing a key role in meeting the needs of mobilized troops and their families. By leveraging its advanced distributed learning and communications technologies, DTTP helps Guardsmen prepare for their missions, take care of personal matters prior to deployment, and, once deployed, communicate with their loved ones across thousands of miles.

c. DTTP provides tools and resources to help Guard leadership adequately train reduced forces and better coordinate emergency-management functions. DTTP's multimedia classrooms can support command and control operations, simultaneously connecting Guard leadership with state and federal emergency management agencies, as well as other disaster-related resources. From tracking storm progress to monitoring personnel assignments and locations, DTTP allows leadership to make better, faster decisions based on the most up-to-date information available.

d. Since 2003, DTTP has provided training and other support to help establish and deploy a number of Civil Support Teams and related response teams. In 2004, DTTP supported Department of Homeland Security planning sessions with senior Homeland Security Advisors in the 50 states, commonwealths and territories; engaged in pilot demonstrations with academia to conduct advanced-degree programs with Homeland Security certification via the distance learning network; and served as a component of First Responder training in our Nation's communities.

e. To guarantee the proper level of security during the five-day Democratic Convention in Boston, the Massachusetts National Guard coordinated with a variety of agencies, using DTTP to link on-scene commanders with other state and federal resources. DTTP supported daily secure video teleconferences between the Massachusetts Joint Force Headquarters Commander, Brigadier General Gary Pappas and NORTHCOM. Pappas also used DTTP to meet virtually with joint and task force commanders. In addition, the New England Plans Operations and Military Support Officers used DTTP resources to distribute and share situation reports.

f. In New York, National Guard members stationed at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham monitored a continuous stream of information from personnel at the Republican Convention site in Madison Square Garden and the Forward Operations Center at the Park Avenue Armory to develop and coordinate tactical mission plans. At the convention site itself, the New York National Guard maintained four plasma screens, which projected situation briefings, mission plans and local newscasts throughout the day.

g. DTTP is an award winning system – including the Army CIO/G6 Knowledge Management for Best e-learning Initiative, and the TeleCon Award for Best Government e-learning program.

h. The DTTP is an investment of over \$472.3K through FY04 and is anticipated to increase by an additional \$440.8K through its life cycle (FY11). Although DTTP is recognized in the Program Objectives Memorandum for FY04-11, garnering the required resources to sustain a healthy program has been challenging. Project funding for operations and maintenance has been reduced and Congressional support has waned while program requirements have increased. A small percentage of DTTP's validated requirements are funded in FY05-11.